

Oppose SB16

Hello.

I am Andre Armour. I am a schoolteacher, I am a firearms instructor, I am Federal Firearms License Dealer (FFL). Most importantly I am a black man from the inner city of Connecticut. I am from New Haven CT to be more precise.

I want to be as direct and concise as possible in my writing, so that you take the time needed to take my perspective and experiences as a law-abiding black man into consideration. I oppose SB16, because at its' core it is on discriminatory. This bill, if passed will caused more negative encounters and over policing in the black and brown communities. This bill will negatively directly impact black and brown men, who already have been victimize and traumatized by our judicial system. This bill does nothing to reduce crime anywhere in our state, besides target law abiding citizens.

I have legally owned firearms since the age of 21. In less than 1 city block from my own home, I was pulled over and detained, because the officers on duty at the time was not familiar with my car being in my neighborhood. I worked 3rd shift at the time, so I was always at work during the very early hours of the day. This particular night I had off and was on my way home from a relative's house. I was asked by the two officers for my license, registration, and insurance. Without any hesitation I complied. I then was asked if there were any weapons in my car at the time, being the law-abiding citizen I am, I answered truthfully with a yes. I provided to the officers with my pistol permit, as evidence to prove that I was legally carrying my firearm. I was detained while they investigated whether my firearm was legally mine. In the state of CT, a CT Pistol Permit allows a permit holder to conceal any firearm legal in the state. Even if that firearm belonged to a; parent, spouse, sibling, or anyone else that granted permission. Regardless I was legally in possession of said firearm.

To summarize this letter and story. I was pulled over in a black community for being black, because my car was unfamiliar to the officers. I was detained because I told the truth about legally being in possession of a firearm I legally purchased. The point I am making is that these kinds of bills have chills running down my spine, because they always punish men and women of color. These kinds of bills leave black men and women like me; falsely accused, falsely prosecuted, falsely imprisoned, and dead.

Imagine the negative consequences of this bill. I should have never been pulled over. I should have been allowed to go home safely once presenting, license, registration, and insurance. There was no reason to ask if I was in possession of a firearm because I posed no threat to anyone. Once providing proof that I was a legal permit holder, I should have been allowed to safely go home. I was removed from my vehicle and watch an officer take possession of a firearm and clear it, in a very unsafe manner. I am just glad to be alive to share with you, my story.